

**PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21, 2015  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

**Members Present:** Councilman Carl R. Chisem  
Councilman James B. Streeto  
Councilman Thomas Serra  
Councilwoman Sandra Russo-Driska  
Councilman David Bauer

**Staff Present:** William J. Russo, Public Works Director

**Others Present:**

Vince McDermott, Millone & MacBroom  
Mike Doherty, Millone & MacBroom  
Linda Bowers, 204 Cranberry Lane  
Helen Kuzina, 92 Sisk Street  
Margaret Krokulski, 379 East Street  
Kim Kuzina, 102 Sisk Street  
Tony Jaskot, 16 Hillcrest Avenue  
Tim Kohs, 42 Summersweet Drive, Higganum  
Steve Crouch, 128 Schuyler Avenue  
Frank Mouehese, 583 Pine Street  
Zach Eddinger, 12 Ridge Road  
Justin Deegan, 455 West Street  
Ann Buchanan, 237 Hendley Street

Maureen Dale, 156 Old Farms West  
Sabrina Parent, 167 Hickory Circle  
Michael Alleyne, 190 Barbara Road  
Heather & Martin Mierz, 65 Barbara Road  
Giuseppe & Heather Iaderosa, 130 Miner St.  
Marco Gaylord, 767 Ridge Road  
Terry Balletto, 331 East Ridge Road  
Mike Czerwonka, 145 Lakeside Avenue  
Elisha De Jesus, 200 LaRosa Lane  
Brian Young, 38 Tuttle Road  
Tom D'Aquila, 165 Front Street  
Phil Cacciola, 17 Lorelei Circle  
Jane Mills, Middletown Press

Chair Chisem opened the Public Works and Facilities Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. He requested a motion to approve the minutes December 10, 2014. Minutes were seconded and approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Members from the public asked questions related to the parks and schools field renovations based on additives such as lights, bleachers, safety, synthetic turf vs. non-synthetic turf and drainage at various fields.

Field dimensions were discussed amongst residents and will be discussed further with employees of the City of Middletown. However, the field dimensions at Woodrow Wilson are limited due to the dimensions of the surrounding track.

Director Russo reassured the public that the scheduling of events will be done accordingly so that only one event at a time will occur, as it has been in the past.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Millone & MacBroom Park Presentation - Director Russo introduced himself as Public Works Director, as well as the commission as a whole. He thanked everyone for coming and stated that Millone & MacBroom will be giving their presentation followed by time for questions and concerns afterwards.

A follow up discussion from the previous meeting was held by Vince McDermott regarding the renovations at 17 various sites involving the schools and parks around Middletown. Existing maps and data were used to come up with an inventory and analysis of the conditions. The draft was presented to the commission and members of the public. Safety was the primary concern for most of the sites, along with ADA Compliance, sidewalks, shapes & sizes of fields, surface conditions, slopes, access, paving, parking, bathroom facilities, etc. Security should also be added on the premises to ensure further safety. Some of the fields are looking at possible synthetic turf installations.

Vince briefly discussed how to upkeep the fields to help increase their lifespan such as obeying total hours allowed for play time on each field, which should be 15 hours. When multiplying the number of hours of use by the number of fields, it comes to 165 hours. Middletown has a demand of 225 hours, especially in the spring, which means the fields are being used a lot more than they should be.

The Millone & MacBroom firm discussed all 17 locations individually for the general site improvements as specified above. Prices will be placed on the draft based on the feedback, along with some modifications to the sketches. The commission will meet again to review the changes to the draft.

Chair Chisem made a motion to approve the Millone & MacBroom presentation. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

b. Coleman Brothers Show Agreement - Motion was made to approve the agreement. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

c. Lease Area for the Greater Middletown Military Museum - Director Russo stated that the written lease agreement is for the Veteran's picnic area. The plan is to move the Military Museum next to the Trees of Honor. Commissioner Russo-Driska made a motion to approve the lease. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

d. State D.O.T. Grant – Westlake Drive Reconstruction - Director Russo stated that it is the River CRCOG. Motion was made for approval. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Russo-Driska and approved unanimously.

e. Building Permit Refund - Motion was made to approve the building permit refund. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Russo-Driska and approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Ordinance Revision - Hours of Operation - The General Council reviewed the ordinance at their meeting. Their main question was the expenditures towards paying Parks Department employees overtime to open and close the parks gates at sunrise.

Director Russo stated that the only differences in the wording of the ordinance are the words "8:00 A.M. to sunset" being changed to "sunrise to sunset".

Safety issues and overtime were discussed. To eliminate overtime and confusion, it was then noted that the ordinance change should be as follows: "The City open space parks and non-gated recreational area shall be open to the public daily between sunrise and sunset." Motion was made to change the ordinance to the above quotation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Russo-Driska and approved unanimously.

This change will be referred to the Council with a copy to the General Counsel's office to reassure that there is no further input. If further input is needed, Deputy General Counsel, Kori Wisneski, can solicit the Chairwoman to host a special meeting or deal with it otherwise. The ordinance change will be placed on the February Council Agenda.

Motion was made to approve and forward the ordinance change to the Council with a copy to the General Counsel for placement on the Council's February Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Russo-Driska and approved unanimously.

b. December 2014 Overtime Report - The commission reviewed the December 2014 overtime report. Director Russo briefed the commission on the overtime. He stated that vehicle repairs are down and that to date, it has been a quiet winter.

c. December 2014 Building Permits - The commission reviewed the December 2014 building permits.

**OTHER:**

a. December 2014 Monthly Report – Highway Division - The commission reviewed the December 2014 monthly report.

b. December 2014 Overtime Report – Parks Division - The commission reviewed the December 2014 Parks Division overtime report.

As there was no further discussion, the Public Works & Facilities commission meeting was adjourned at 8:0 P.M.